



STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS.

S.I. No. 143 of 2012



CONSUMER PROTECTION (CONSUMER INFORMATION)
(ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS METALS) REGULATIONS 2012

(Prn. A12/0755)

CONSUMER PROTECTION (CONSUMER INFORMATION)
(ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS METALS) REGULATIONS 2012

I, RICHARD BRUTON, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 50 of the Consumer Protection Act 2007 (No. 19 of 2007) (as adapted by the Enterprise, Trade and Innovation (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2011 (S.I. No. 245 of 2011)), hereby make the following regulations:

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Consumer Protection (Consumer Information) (Articles of Precious Metals) Regulations 2012.

2. These Regulations shall come into operation on 1 July 2012.

3. In these Regulations—

“approved hallmark” means an approved hallmark as defined in the Hallmarking Act 1981;

“article of precious metal” means an article consisting of or containing gold, silver or platinum or alloys of gold, silver or platinum;

“Regulations of 2001” means the the European Communities (Hallmarking of Articles Imported from Other Member States) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 579 of 2001).

4. Subject to Regulation 5, a trader shall not supply an article of precious metal to a consumer unless the article is marked with an approved hallmark.

5. An article of precious metal which complies with Regulation 3 of the Regulations of 2001 shall be deemed to comply with Regulation 4.

6. A trader who supplies an article of precious metal from a premises to which the public has access shall exhibit a notice in the form set out in the Schedule.

7. A notice exhibited pursuant to Regulation 6 shall—

- (a) be located in a position so as to be clearly visible and easily accessible to a consumer before or immediately after entering the premises,
- (b) be displayed on not less than A4 size paper, and
- (c) contain letters and figures at least three millimetres in height and of proportionate width, which are not hidden, obscured, or interrupted by other pictorial or written matter.

*Notice of the making of this Statutory Instrument was published in
“Iris Oifigiúil” of 11th May, 2012.*

SCHEDULE



An Roinn Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta
Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

In Ireland all items of Gold, Silver and Platinum are subject to compulsory assaying and hallmarking. All standards of fineness are minimum standards with no minus tolerance and there are no exemptions by weight. Items must bear one of the following:-

Irish Hallmark

or

International Convention Hallmark (Ireland is a contracting party to the Convention on the Control and Marking of Articles of Precious Metals)

or

A hallmark and sponsor's or maker's mark, as appropriate, applied by an independent body in another Member State of the EU that provides information that is both intelligible to consumers and equivalent to the information provided by the marks referred to in the Hallmarking Act, 1981 and Regulations made under that Act.

Irish Hallmarks



DAO

MAKER OR SPONSOR'S MARK



ASSAY OFFICE MARK



18 750

METAL & FINENESS (PURITY) MARK

Metal and Fineness

Tells you the precious metal content, expressed in parts per thousand.

SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
800	9 375	850
925	10 417	900
9584	14 585	950
999	18 833	999
	20 916	
	22 990	
	999	

You may also see optional marks, such as the traditional fineness symbol and the date letter depicting the year the item was hallmarking.

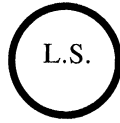
STERLING SILVER	750 GOLD	833 GOLD	916 GOLD
2011	2012	2013	2014
A	B	C	D

Convention Hallmarks

A Convention Hallmark consists of a Maker or Sponsor's Mark, an Assay Office Mark, a Fineness Mark and a Common Control Mark. There is no Date Letter.

		
SILVER 925	GOLD 375	PLATINUM 950

THIS NOTICE IS ISSUED BY THE MINISTER FOR JOBS, ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION PURSUANT TO REGULATION 6 OF S.I. NO. 143 OF 2012.



Given under my Official Seal
8 May 2012.

RICHARD BRUTON,
Minister for Jobs Enterprise and Innovation.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Instrument and does not purport to be a legal interpretation).

These Regulations were made under Section 50 of the Consumer Protection Act 2007 to provide consumers with information on articles made from precious metals and for the purpose of designating the National Consumer Agency as the authority responsible for the enforcement of hallmarking legislation. Hallmarking describes the administrative and legal system for ensuring that articles of precious metals conform to legal standards as to the fineness of the precious metals.

These Regulations require traders, selling articles made from precious metals (gold, silver or platinum), to ensure that they have an approved hallmark and the trader must display a notice prescribing the hallmarks allowed and showing examples of these hallmarks.

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